

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MANAGING MULTIPLE USER IDENTITIES ON A NETWORKED COMPUTER SYSTEM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus and method allow a system administrator to manage multiple user
5 identities in multiple user registries in different processing environments. An identity
mapping mechanism is provided that includes a directory service that includes entries that
reference user identities in the multiple registries, and that reference identity mappings
between those entries. The identity mapping mechanism includes an interface defined by
a plurality of APIs that allow accessing and correlating the multiple user identities and the
10 identity mappings. A programmer can generate an application or tool that uses the
identity mapping mechanism by calling the APIs in the interface. In this manner,
administration of user identities occurs with the user as the primary focus, rather than the
platform. In addition, a common tool can be used to manage the user identities of
different environments, making administration of user identities in a heterogenous
15 network more efficient and cost-effective.